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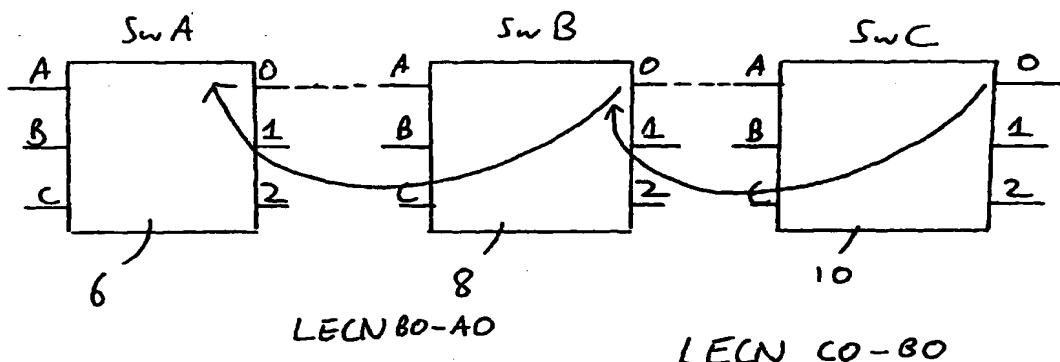


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(57) Abstract: A method of congestion management within a switch or network of connected switches is provided, wherein the or each of the switches has a plurality of ingress ports and a plurality of egress ports. The method comprises when congestion is detected at a first ingress or egress port, sending a message to an upstream port connected to the first ingress or egress port indicating that congestion has occurred at a particular port and requesting storage at the upstream port of data packets destined for that port; and, in dependence on the amount of data packets destined for the congested port stored at said upstream port, sending from the upstream port to a further upstream port a message informing said further upstream port of the congestion at the congested port, said further upstream port storing at said further upstream port data packets destined for the congested port.